

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE,  Complainant,  vs.  LoTEL, INC., d/b/a COORDINATED BILLING SERVICES,  Respondent.	DOCKET NO. FCU-04-10
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**ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AND ASSESSING CIVIL PENALTY**

(Issued February 20, 2004)

On February 5, 2004, the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice (Consumer Advocate) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a "Petition for Proceeding to Impose Civil Penalty" for alleged slamming violations committed by LoTel, Inc., d/b/a Coordinated Billing Services (LoTel).

In its petition, Consumer Advocate asserted that LoTel switched the complaining customer's long distance service without proper authorization in violation of Iowa's anti-slamming law, Iowa Code § 476.103 (2003).

On February 18, 2004, the parties to this docket, Consumer Advocate and LoTel, submitted a joint motion for approval of a settlement. The settlement agreement addresses all issues in the docket and includes a monetary penalty

against LoTel in the amount of \$500, which is to be paid within 30 days of the date of this order.

The settlement agreement is reasonable in light of the record, is in conformance with all applicable statutes and rules, is in the public interest, and will be approved. 199 IAC 7.2(11).

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. The "Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement" filed in this docket on February 18, 2004, is granted and the "Settlement Agreement" is approved.

2. Pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.103 and the "Settlement Agreement" filed February 18, 2004, LoTel, Inc., d/b/a Coordinated Billing Services, is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$500. Payment is due within 30 days of the date of this order.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

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/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004.